IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A composition ~~capable of exhibiting a detectable and measurable color transition in response to a concentration of 0% to about 20%, by weight, of a dialdehyde, said composition~~ comprising:

(a) a diamino carboxylic acid in an amount of about 5% to about 25%, by weight of the composition, said diamino carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of lysine, ornithine, L-2,3-diaminopropionic acid, L-2,3-diaminobutyric acid, arginine, canavanine, hydroxylysine, asparagine, glutamine, and mixtures thereof;

(b) a water-soluble polymer; and

(c) a carrier comprising water.

C09K 5/16

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

2 ~~4.~~ (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the diamino carboxylic acid is lysine, ornithine, arginine, or a mixture thereof.

5. (Cancelled).

3 ~~6.~~ (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the diamino carboxylic acid is present in an amount of about 5% to about 15%, by weight of the composition.

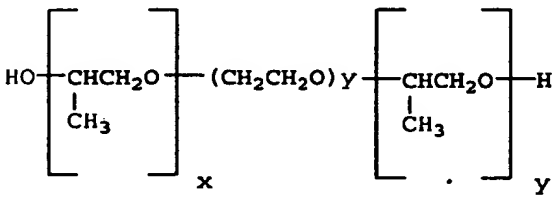
4 ~~7.~~ (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the water-soluble polymer comprises a nonionic polymer.

5 ~~8.~~ (Original) The composition of claim 4 ~~7~~ wherein the polymer comprises a cellulose-based polymer.

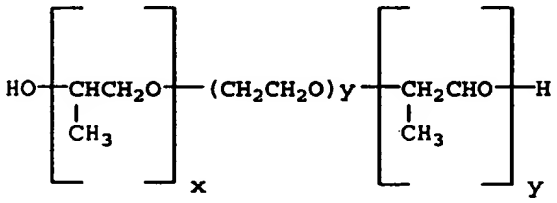
6 ~~9.~~ (Original) The composition of claim 5 ~~8~~ wherein the cellulose-based polymer is selected from the group consisting of methylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxyethylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose and salts thereof, hydroxybutylcellulose, cellulose acetate, carboxymethylhydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxybutylmethylcellulose, and mixtures thereof.

7 ~~10.~~ (Original) The composition of claim 6 ~~9~~ wherein the polymer comprises hydroxyethylcellulose.

8 ~~11.~~ (Original) The composition of claim 4 ~~7~~ wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, hydrolyzed polyvinylpyrrolidone, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinyl acetate), vinyl acetate-vinyl alcohol copolymer, poly-(methacrylamide), a polyoxypropylene-polyoxyethylene block polymer having a structure:



or



wherein x and z, independently, are an integer from about 4 to about 30, and y is an integer from about 4 to about 100, polyacrylamide, a vinyl alcohol copolymer, and mixtures thereof.

9 ~~12.~~ (Original) The composition of claim 4 ~~7~~ wherein the polymer is present in an amount of 0.1% to about 5%, by weight of the composition.

10 ~~13.~~ (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 further comprising an anionic surfactant or a nonionic surfactant.

11 ~~14.~~ (Previously presented) The composition of claim ~~13~~ 10 wherein the anionic surfactant or nonionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of an ethoxylated polysorbate, an ethoxylated alcohol, an ethoxylated phenol, a polyethylene glycol, a polypropylene glycol, an ethylene glycol-propylene glycol copolymer, an alkyl sulfate, an alkyl ether sulfate, an alkyl ether sulfonate, a sulfate ester of an alkylphenoxy polyoxyethylene ethanol, an alpha-olefin sulfonate, a beta-alkyloxy alkane sulfonate, an alkyl arylsulfonate, an alkyl carbonate, an alkyl ether carboxylate, a fatty acid, a sulfosuccinate, an alkyl ether sulfosuccinate, a sarcosinate, an octoxynol phosphate, a nonoxynol phosphate, a taurate, a fatty tauride, a sulfated monoglyceride, a fatty acid amido polyoxyethylene sulfate, and mixtures thereof.

12 ~~15.~~ (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 comprising:

(a) about 5% to about 25% by weight diamino carboxylic acid; and

(b) about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and mixtures thereof.

13 ~~16.~~ (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the carrier further comprises an organic solvent.

14 ~~17~~. (Original) The composition of claim 13 ~~16~~ wherein the organic solvent comprises methanol, ethanol, or acetone.

18-29. (Cancelled)